



UNIT 9. INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

1. International organizations, in general
2. The United Nations Organization
3. International Organizations in the field of Economics

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN GENERAL

- Second half of the 19th century-onwards: institutionalization of international community. To achieve their purposes, certain powers were exercised de facto, and certain obligations assumed in international relations.
 - Jurists who professed a formalistic view of personality: assimilation to state.
 - Evolution of international relations: international organizations, which exercised de facto functions and powers in the international order, constituted a new category of subjects of international law.
 - Reparation for injuries suffered in the service of the United Nations, Advisory Opinion: I.C.J. 1949:
 - Facts of the opinion: assassination of Count Folke Bernadotte, who had been sent by the United Nations as mediator to Palestine following the Arab-Israeli conflict of 1947-48. In response to this assassination of a UN agent, the General Assembly consulted the ICJ on the possibility of the organization to bring an international claim against the government responsible for the death of the said agent.
 - ICJ: the question (the possibility of bringing an international claim) raised by extension the question whether the United Nations Organization ultimately possesses what the doctrine calls international personality.
 - ICJ Opinion: line of thought inspired by the theory of the “implied powers”.

- ❖ The UN does indeed possess an international personality which entitles to bring an international claim for damage suffered in the person of its agent both vis-à-vis any state member of the Organization and even vis-à-vis States which were not members of it.
- Application of the same rationale, *mutatis mutandi*, to other international organizations: international organizations constituted a subject (secondary, if you will, but a subject nonetheless) of international law.
- The determination of the personality: case-by-case basis, having regard to the provisions of the constituent treaty and the functions, powers, and responsibilities exercised by the organization concerned. Recalling the triptych proposed by Professor Reuter, it is significant to note that international organizations largely meet the required requirements:
 - communication capacity: convention on the representation of states in their relations with international organizations, adopted in Vienna on 14 March 1975.
 - capacity to conclude treaties: convention on treaties concluded between states and international organizations or between two or more organizations.
 - responsibility of international organizations: progressively moving in the affirmative direction.

THE UNITED NATIONS ORGANIZATION

- A. Background and creation of the UN: The United Nations Charter
- B. Purposes and principles of the organization
- C. The condition of member of the UN
- D. The organs of the United Nations
- E. Specialized agencies of the United Nations

A. BACKGROUND AND CREATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS ORGANIZATION

- "European Concert of Powers" (19th and early 20th centuries) broke down definitively with the outbreak of WWI.
- Peace Treaty (Versailles, 28 June 1919): League of Nations (closest antecedent to the UN).
 - Not strong enough to achieve its essential objectives, particularly in the field of peacekeeping.
 - the invasion of Manchuria by Japan in 1931;
 - the war between Italy and Abyssinia between 1934 and 1935;
 - the annexation of the Czech Sudetenland by Germany in 1939;
 - and the Soviet invasion of Finland in the same year.
 - Never had a truly universal membership.
- Allied Powers WW2: consider the need for a new international organization with a universal vocation and general aims which, when the war ended, would structure the international community.
 - Declaration of the Allies, signed in London on 12 June 1941 by 14 allied states;
 - the Atlantic Charter signed on 14 August 1941 (President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill).

- Declaration of the United Nations, signed in Washington on 1 January 1942 by 26 states;
- Declaration of Moscow, signed on 30 October 1943 by the representatives of the four Allied Powers (United States, United Kingdom, Soviet Union and China), which expressly provided for the creation of a new international organization at the end of WW2.
- San Francisco Conference (25 April to 16 June 1945):
 - 50 states participating.
 - Preparatory work carried out by the four great powers at the Dumbarton Oaks (1944) and Yalta (1945) Conferences.
 - The outcome: adoption of the Charter of the United Nations and the Statute of the International Court of Justice (ICJ), on 26 June 1945, and entered into force on 24 October of the same year.
- Charter of the UN:
 - founding treaty of the UN, but it is not “another treaty”:
 - It creates the only existing international organization with a universal vocation and general purposes.
 - Article 103 of the Charter introduces a principle of hierarchy of norms in international law.

B. PURPOSES AND PRINCIPLES OF THE UNITED NATIONS

- Chapter I "Purposes and Principles":
 - **“Purposes”**: aims or objectives to be achieved by the UN. They are the ultimate reason for its creation.
 - **“Principles”**: rules of conduct to be observed by both the UN and its members in the pursuit of those "Purposes".

B.1. PURPOSES OF THE UNITED NATIONS

- Article 1: *“The Purposes of the United Nations are:*
 - *To maintain international peace and security, and to that end: to take effective collective measures for the prevention and removal of threats to the peace, and for the suppression of acts of aggression or other breaches of the peace, and to bring about by peaceful means, and in conformity with the principles of justice and international law, adjustment or settlement of international disputes or situations which might lead to a breach of the peace.*
 - *To develop friendly relations among nations based on respect for the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples, and to take other appropriate measures to strengthen universal peace.*

- *To achieve international co-operation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural, or humanitarian character, and promote and encourage respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language, or religion.*
- *To be a center for harmonizing the actions of nations in the attainment of these common ends”.*
- **“Maintenance of international peace and security”.**
 - Preamble: "to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, which twice in our lifetime has brought untold sorrow to mankind".
 - Primary responsibility of the organization.
 - In pursuit of this main purpose - two types of measures:
 - adoption of "effective collective measures for the prevention and removal of threats to the peace, and for the suppression of acts of aggression or other breaches of the peace" (Chapter VII "Action in Cases of Threats to the Peace, Breaches of the Peace, or Acts of Aggression“).
 - Adoption of measures which, "by peaceful means and in conformity with the principles of justice and international law, bring about the adjustment or settlement of international disputes or situations which might lead to a breach of the peace“ (Chapter VI "Peaceful Settlement of Disputes“).

➤ **“Strengthen universal peace”:**

■ In its pursuit:

- adopt all measures it deems appropriate, including especially those aimed at "promoting friendly relations among nations based on respect for the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples" (developed in Art. 55).
- Promotion of international cooperation in the political field among the members and the encouragement of the codification and progressive development of international law (Art. 13.1.a).

➤ **“Carry out international cooperation”**

■ Two broad areas:

- in the solution of international problems of an economic, social, cultural, or humanitarian nature (global objective of "development and the eradication of poverty").
- in the "development and encouragement of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion" (overall objective of "human rights, democracy and good governance").

➤ **Serve "as a center for harmonizing the efforts of nations" to achieve the other common purposes:** especially important.

B.2. UN PRINCIPLES

- For the realization of these purposes, the UN and its members must conduct themselves in accordance with the seven principles enumerated in Article 2:
 - Principle of the sovereign equality of all its members.
 - Principle of good faith.
 - Peaceful settlement of international disputes.
 - Refrain from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state, or in any other manner inconsistent with the purposes of the United Nations.
 - All members shall give the United Nations every assistance in any action it takes in accordance with the present charter and shall refrain from giving assistance to any state against which the United Nations is taking preventive or enforcement action.
 - Ensure that states not members act in accordance with these principles so far as may be necessary for the maintenance of international peace and security.
 - Not intervene on matters which are essentially within the domestic jurisdiction of any state or shall require the members to submit such matters to settlement under the present charter; but this principle shall not prejudice the application of enforcement measures under Chapter VII.

➤ **Development of the principles:**

- GA Resolution 2625 (XXV), "Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations": Material content to the principles.
 - Basic principles of international law.
 - Principles of Resolution 2625 (XXV) which already appeared in Article 2:
 - ❖ prohibition of the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state, or in any other manner inconsistent with the purposes of the UN.
 - ❖ settlement of international disputes by peaceful means in such a manner that international peace and security and justice are not endangered.
 - ❖ non-intervention in matters within the domestic jurisdiction of states.
 - ❖ sovereign equality of states.
 - ❖ states shall fulfill in good faith the obligations assumed by them in accordance with the charter.
 - New principles included in this resolution:
 - ❖ obligation of the states to cooperate among themselves in accordance with the charter.

- ❖ equal rights and self-determination of peoples.
- Principles exclusively in the charter: the principle that members shall render the UN assistance in any action it takes in accordance with the charter; and the principle of the authority of UN over non-member states, to the extent necessary for the maintenance of international peace and security.
- Legal value of such declaration of principles:
 - [ICJ Judgment on the merits of 27 June 1986, in the case of military and paramilitary activities in and against Nicaragua \(Nicaragua v. United States of America\)](#): contents of the principle of the prohibition of the threat or use of force and the principle of non-intervention in matters within the domestic jurisdiction of states, contained in Resolution 2625 (XXV), reflect customary international law.
 - [ICJ Advisory Opinion of 22 July 2010 on the conformity with international law of Kosovo's unilateral declaration of independence](#): GA Resolution 2625 (XXV) reflects customary international law.

C. MEMBERSHIP IN THE UNITED NATIONS

C.1. ACQUISITION OF MEMBERSHIP

- Articles 3 and 4: original members and members admitted to the UN: same rights and obligations (≠ admission procedure).
 - Article 3: original members are those states that fulfilled a double condition: 1) having participated in the San Francisco Conference or having previously signed the Declaration of the United Nations of 1 January 1942; and 2) having subscribed and ratified the charter, in accordance with Article 110 of the charter.
 - Article 4: admission of new members
 - Conditions:
 - to be a state, i.e., to meet the constituent elements of a state;
 - to be a "peace-loving" state (presumed for all states nowadays);
 - to accept the obligations contained in the charter (need for an express declaration to this effect);
 - to be capable of fulfilling these obligations; and
 - to be willing to comply with them.
 - Evaluation of the conditions by GA and SC.
 - Others?
 - ICJ first advisory opinion on the conditions for admission of a state as a member of the United Nations (1948):

- ❖ Are the conditions laid down in Article 4 exhaustive? *"The natural meaning of the terms used in Art. 4 leads to the conclusion that these conditions constitute an exhaustive enumeration (...)"* not merely as necessary conditions, but also as sufficient conditions.
- ❖ The provisions of Article 4 necessarily imply that each application for admission should be examined and voted upon separately and on its own merits;
- Problem: the veto available to Soviet Union at the SC.
- ❖ political agreement joint admission of 16 new members on 14 December 1955, among them Spain, in addition to several states of the communist bloc and several "enemy states".
- **The procedure:** *"decision of GA upon the recommendation of the SC"*.
 - Problem: veto of the Soviet Union in the SC.
 - ICJ Advisory Opinion of 3 March 1950 on the responsibility of the GA for the admission of a state to the United Nations: Can the GA do it by itself? NO. The charter requires two things for admission to take place: a "recommendation" of the SC (preceding in time) and a "decision" of the GA.
- **Effects of membership** in the UN: the date on which the GA approves its decision on admission.
- Nowadays: 193 members following the admission of the Republic of South Sudan on 14 July 2011.

C.2. SUSPENSION ON THE EXERCISE OF THE RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES INHERENT TO THE CONDITION OF MEMBER

- Article 5: *A member of the United Nations against which preventive or enforcement action has been taken by the Security Council may be suspended from the exercise of the rights and privileges of membership by the General Assembly upon the recommendation of the Security Council. The exercise of these rights and privileges may be restored by the Security Council.*
- Possibility of suspension of the exercise of the rights and privileges inherent to membership, but not of the obligations:
 - Procedure:
 - decision corresponds to the GA, "upon recommendation" of the SC.
 - reinstatement corresponds exclusively to the SC.
- Attempts examples: South Africa (for its apartheid policy), Portugal (for its colonial policy), or Israel.

C.3. LOSS OF MEMBERSHIP

- Article 6. *A member of the United Nations which has persistently violated the principles contained in the present charter may be expelled from the Organization by the General Assembly upon the recommendation of the Security Council.*
 - no case in which a member state has been expelled.

- The possibility of voluntary withdraw is not contemplated in the charter but there is no specific prohibition.
- UN Practice: 20 January 1965, Indonesia announced its decision to withdraw from the UN after Malaysia (which Indonesia did not recognize despite having been a member of the UN for eight years) was elected as a member of the SC.
 - Indonesia ceased to contribute to the UN budget and did not participate in the activities of its organs.
 - 19 September 1966, Indonesia communicated its decision to “resume full cooperation with the UN and participation in the activities of the organization” but it was not required to submit again to the procedure for admission.

D. THE ORGANS OF THE UNITED NATIONS

D.1. THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY (GA)

- Plenary organ composed of all its members (represented by a maximum of five persons), and each member has one vote (Arts. 9 and 18.1). It is the most egalitarian and democratic principal organ.
- It does not operate on a permanent basis. In plenary session: once a year during the regular session (generally coinciding with the third Tuesday of September).
- After plenary debate: agenda distributed among the six main committees to prepare draft resolutions to be submitted to the GA plenary for adoption.
 - Special sessions "whenever circumstances require" or even in emergency special sessions at the request of the SC or a majority of the members. Once the plenary debate is concluded, the broad agenda of each session is distributed among the six main committees of the GA.
- **The powers:**
 - General clause: *"discuss any matters or questions within the scope of the charter or relating to the powers and functions of any organs provided for in the charter and make recommendations on any such matters or questions to the members of the United Nations or to the Council or to both"* (Art. 10).

- Exception Article 12: unless so requested by the SC, GA shall not make any recommendation on disputes or situations in respect of which the SC is performing the functions assigned to it.
- Specific powers:
 - Admission of new members/suspension of rights
 - To consider the general principles of cooperation in the maintenance of international peace and security, including the principles governing disarmament and the regulation of armaments;
 - To promote international cooperation in the political field and to encourage the codification and progressive development of international law.
 - Promote international cooperation in economic, social, cultural, educational and health matters and to assist in the realization of human rights and fundamental freedoms.
 - Recommend measures for the pacific settlement of disputes in the field of decolonization.
 - Approve the budget of the UN and determine the contributions to be paid by each member.
 - Elect non-members; elect the non-permanent members of the SC; members of ECOSOC and the CAF; the judges of the ICJ; and the Secretary-General (SG).

- Establish subsidiary organs as it deems necessary for the performance of its functions.

➤ **Adoption of resolutions:**

- Charter: procedure of a majority vote UN members.
 - “Important questions”: a two-thirds majority vote of the members present and voting. They are:
 - recommendations relating to the maintenance of international peace and security.
 - the election of non-permanent members of the SC, members of ECOSOC, members of the CAF.
 - the admission of new members to the United Nations, the suspension of the rights and privileges of members, as well as the expulsion of members;
 - questions relating to the functioning of the trusteeship system; and
 - budgetary questions.
 - “Other matters”: majority of the members present and voting.
- UN practice: adoption by consensus after due deliberation, the president of the GA may propose that a resolution be adopted without a vote. If no member objects, the draft resolution is finally adopted.

➤ **Effects of resolutions:** most of the resolutions adopted by the GA contain recommendations that are not binding, per se, on the member states.

- **Only binding** in matters relating to:
 - membership of the UN;
 - approval of the regular and, if necessary, special budget;
 - the determination of the contributions to be borne by each member;
 - the approval of its rules of procedure;
 - the election of its president and of the members of the other principal organs.

D.2. THE SECURITY COUNCIL (SC)

- **Principal organ with restricted membership.**
- **Composition:** 15 members, each with one representative, who may be a member of their government or a specially designated representative.
 - Five are permanent members of the SC: China, France, the Russian Federation (as successor to the Soviet Union), the United Kingdom, and the United States.
 - The remaining ten: non-permanent members, elected by the GA for a two-year non-renewable term, with special attention to:
 - their contribution to the maintenance of international peace and security and to the other purposes of UN, as well as...
 - ..."equitable geographical distribution" (GA Resolution 1991 (XVIII) of 17 December 1963), with 5 States to be elected from Africa and Asia; 1 from Eastern Europe; 2 from Latin America; and 2 from Western Europe and another state.

- **Functioning:** “to be able to function continuously” by appointing a representative at UN.
 - Regular meetings (in its headquarters but may meet elsewhere).
 - may be convened for emergency meetings by its chairman.
- **Powers of the SC:**
 - Primary responsibility: maintenance of international peace and security.
 - ICJ Advisory Opinion of 20 July 1962 on certain expenses of the United Nations:
 - “Primary”, not exclusive, but it is only the SC that can require its enforcement by means of coercive action against an aggressor.
 - When the SC performs the functions imposed on it by this "primary responsibility", all UN members recognize that the SC "acts on their behalf".
 - Other powers concurrent with GA:
 - admission, suspension, and expulsion of members.
 - election of ICJ judges and of the SG.
 - convening of the General Conference for the Revision of the Charter.
 - Exclusive powers of the SC:
 - make recommendations or issue measures to ensure the execution of an ICJ judgment.
 - establish subsidiary organs as it deems necessary for the performance of its functions.

➤ **Adoption of resolutions:**

- Charter: procedure of majority voting among the members of the SC, with each member having one vote. The voting rules vary according to whether the matter is one of "procedure" or one of substance ("all other matters").
 - Decisions on "procedural matters": the affirmative vote of any nine SC members.
 - For "all other matters": affirmative vote of nine SC members is required, including "affirmative votes of all permanent members" (veto right of permanent member of the SC).
 - practice: flexible rule understanding that abstention or absence from voting by a permanent member is not equivalent to the exercise of the veto.
 - a member of the SC who is a party to a dispute shall abstain from voting, but this provision has hardly been applied in practice.
 - Practice: consensus method. After discussion of an issue within the SC, its chairman (acting in this capacity and not as a representative of a member state in the SC) summarizes the discussion and draws the conclusions, stating that they reflect the will of the SC. If no member of the SC raises objections, they are deemed to be definitively adopted without the need for a vote.

➤ **Effects of SC resolutions:** may contain recommendations (not binding) or decisions binding on all UN members, even if they are not members of the SC or even if they have not voted in favor of them.

D.3. THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (ECOSOC)

- Principal organ of UN with restricted membership.
 - Composition: 54 members elected by the GA, renewed annually by thirds. Each member of ECOSOC has only one representative. But it is possible to participate in its deliberations without the right to vote: (1) any UN member having a particular interest in any matter; (2) representatives of the specialized agencies; and (3) representatives of NGOs dealing with matters within the authority of ECOSOC.
- **Functioning:**
 - Meetings, when necessary, in accordance with its rules of procedure. In practice, it meets twice a year.
 - “High-level sessions” of ECOSOC, of two kinds:
 - *“Annual ministerial reviews”* to assess progress and accelerate action towards the achievement of the “millennium development goals” and the other goals included in the United Nations Development Agenda.
 - ❖ The last annual ministerial review was held on 9-10 July 2015 to manage the transition from the “millennium development goals” to the “sustainable development goals (SDGs)”. Since then, the “annual ministerial reviews” have been integrated into the “High-level Political Forum” (review of the progress made in the implementation of commitments related to the implementation of the SDGs).

- ❖ Annual meetings (8 days), which includes a three-day inter-ministerial segment.
- ❖ Every four years at the level of heads of state and government under the auspices of the GA (2 days).
- *High-level biannual "Development Cooperation Forum".*
 - ❖ review trends in international development cooperation, including strategies, policies and financing;
 - ❖ promote greater coherence among the development activities of the development partners;
 - ❖ strengthen the links between normative and operational work.
- Decentralized exercise of power, distributing the work items between the plenary and its various "commissions" (functional commissions, regional commissions, standing committees, etc.) .

➤ **Responsibilities**

- Advisory body to the SC (Art. 65) and the GA (Art. 66), to which it must provide all information requested.
 - reports on international economic, social, cultural, educational, and health matters and formulates recommendations on such matters.
 - formulates recommendations to promote respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, and on the realization of such rights and freedoms.
 - formulates draft conventions on matters within its responsibility for submission to the GA.

- convenes international conferences on matters within its authority.
- Responsible for concluding liaison agreements with the specialized agencies and for coordinating their activities with those of the UN.
- Establish "commissions" as it deems necessary for the performance of its functions.
- **Adoption of resolutions and decisions:** majority of the votes of the members present.

D.4. THE TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL (CAF)

- Chapter XII an "international trusteeship system" applicable to:
 - territories under mandate (LoN mandate system);
 - territories which, as a result WW2, were segregated from "enemy states";
 - territories voluntarily placed under this system by states responsible for their administration.
- Main objective of this regime: promote the advancement of the inhabitants of the trust territories and their progressive development towards self-government or independence.
 - Success: CAF decided to formally suspend its work on 1 November 1994, after the Palau Islands achieved independence.
 - agreed to meet only, when necessary, by its decision or the decision of its chairman, or at the request of a majority of its members of the GA or the SC.

D.5. THE INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE (ICJ)

- The "principal judicial organ" of UN.
- Statute annexed to the charter and forms an integral part thereof, but it is not, however, a court having compulsory jurisdiction over disputes arising between states.
 - Obligation of peaceful resolution and freedom for choice.
- Membership:
 - All members of UN are ipso facto parties to the ICJ.
 - Other states: may become parties "in accordance with the conditions to be determined in each case the AG on recommendation of the SC" (Art. 93).
 - The conditions have always been the same: instrument of ratification containing: 1) acceptance of the provisions of the ICJ Statute; 2) acceptance of all the obligations assumed by UN members under Article 94 of the charter; and c) an undertaking to contribute to the expenses of the ICJ equitable sum to be determined from time to time by the GA, after consultation with the government of that state.
- Jurisdiction
 - Contentious responsibility: to settle all disputes of a legal nature submitted to it by states.
 - Advisory role: to render advisory opinions on legal questions submitted to it by UN organs and international organizations authorized to do so.

D.6. THE SECRETARIAT

- Composition: composed of the Secretary-General and such staff as the UN requires.
 - SG: chief administrative officer appointed by the GA on the recommendation of the SC. Term not provided in the charter (practice: renewable term of years)
 - Responsibilités: varied and increasing.
 - ❖ set of technical-administrative roles, such as: 1) preparing the draft of the UN budget and the control of expenditure and income; 2) organizing the secretariat and recruiting staff; 3) acting as secretary at all sessions of the GA (SC, ECOSOC, and CAF) and performing by delegation the functions entrusted by these principal organs; 4) preparing studies and reports and providing documents, data, and information to the other principal organs; 5) acting as the depositary of international treaties, being responsible for their registration and publication; 6) translating all documents into the various official languages of the UN; 7) coordinating the activity of the various UN organs; 8) organizing international conferences on matters of world interest; etc.
 - ❖ beyond mere technical-administrative functions, it also exercises powers of a political and diplomatic nature: administration of peacekeeping operations (PKOs) and mediation or good offices in international disputes, review of economic and social trends, and problems and the preparation of studies on human rights and sustainable development...

- Secretariat staff: appointed by the SG in accordance with the rules established by the GA. The determining criteria in their appointment are the need to ensure the highest degree of efficiency, competence, and integrity, as well as guaranteeing the broadest possible geographical representation among its staff. International servants accountable only to the UN.

➤ **Functioning:** permanent.

E. SPECIALIZED AGENCIES

- Article 57: *"The various specialized agencies established by intergovernmental agreement, having broad international responsibilities as defined in their statutes, and relating to economic, social, cultural, educational, health, and related matters, shall be brought into relationship with the organization in accordance with the provisions of Article 63. Such specialized agencies thus brought into relationship with the organization shall hereinafter be referred to as 'the specialized agencies'".*
- The specialized agencies are genuine international organizations, with their own legal personality, acting autonomously and independently of the UN.
 - Some predate the UN.
 - They are international organizations with a universal vocation which, unlike the UN, do not have general but specific purposes.
 - They are responsible for carrying out international cooperation of a sectoral nature in "economic, social, cultural, educational, health and related fields".
 - It is an indispensable condition that it be brought into relationship with the UN by the procedure provided for in Article 63: ECOSOC may conclude with these organizations international agreements establishing the terms and conditions under which they are bound as specialized agencies. These relationship agreements must subsequently be approved by the GA.

- The relationship established is not one of hierarchical dependence on the UN, but of functional decentralization.
- At present, there are 19 binding agreements:
 - [Food and Agriculture Organization](#) (FAO) - Rome
 - [International Civil Aviation Organization](#) (ICAO) - Montreal
 - [International Fund for Agricultural Development](#) (IFAD) - Rome
 - [International Labour Organization](#) (ILO) - Geneva
 - [International Maritime Organization](#) (IMO) - London
 - [International Monetary Fund](#) (IMF) - Washington
 - [International Telecommunication Union](#) (ITU) - Geneva
 - [United Nations Education, Science and Culture Organization](#) (UNESCO) - Paris
 - [United Nations Industrial Development Organization](#) (UNIDO) - Vienna
 - [Universal Postal Union](#) (UPU) - Bern.
 - [World Bank Group](#) (includes the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD); the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID); the International Development Association (IDA); the International Finance Corporation (IFC); and the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA))
 - [World Health Organization](#) (WHO) - Geneva

- World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) - Geneva
- World Meteorological Organization (WMO) - Geneva
- United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) - Madrid
- There are other IO with a universal vocation and specific purposes that have concluded cooperation agreements, but have not become specialized agencies and maintain collaborative relations with a good number of regional organizations.
- The specialized agencies and the other international organizations, universal or regional, which collaborate with UN constitute the "United Nations system".

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN THE FIELD OF ECONOMICS

- A. The OECD
- B. The IMF
- C. The World Bank Group

A. ORGANIZATION FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT (OECD)

- OECD (Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development) - Paris.
- Composition: 38 member countries produce two-thirds of the world's goods and services.
- Function:
 - To foster prosperity and fight poverty through economic growth, financial stability, trade and investment, technology, innovation, entrepreneurship, and development co-operation.
 - Countries assess each other's policy performance and propose advice for improvement.
 - Set standards.

B. INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND (IMF)

- IMF (International Monetary Fund) - Washington
- Composition: 190 member countries
- Function:
 - promote international monetary cooperation, exchange stability, and orderly exchange arrangements.
 - foster economic growth and high levels of employment.
 - provide temporary financial assistance to countries to help ease balance of payments adjustment: loans - including emergency loans - to member countries experiencing actual or potential balance of payments problems, and help them rebuild their international reserves, stabilize their currencies, continue paying for imports, and restore conditions for strong economic growth, while correcting underlying problems.
 - Monitors the international monetary system and global economic developments to identify risks and recommend policies for growth and financial stability.
 - It undertakes a regular health check of the economic and financial policies of its 190 member countries.
 - identifies possible risks to the economic stability of its member countries and advises their governments on possible policy adjustments.

C. THE WORLD BANK (WB)

- The World Bank 189 member countries.
- Origin: the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development - soon called the World Bank - helped rebuild countries devastated by World War II.
 - From reconstruction to development with a heavy emphasis on infrastructure such as dams, electrical grids, irrigation systems, and roads.
 - 1956 founding of the International Finance Corporation, the institution became able to lend to private companies and financial institutions in developing countries.
 - 1960 founding of the International Development Association put greater emphasis on the poorest countries, part of a steady shift toward the eradication of poverty becoming the Bank Group's primary goal.
 - The subsequent launch of the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes and the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency further rounded out the Bank Group's ability to connect global financial resources to the needs of developing countries.
- Function:
 - It is world's largest source of development assistance, providing nearly \$16 billion in loans annually to its client countries.
 - It uses its resources to help each developing country onto a path of stable, sustainable, and equitable growth in the fight against poverty.

- Difference from IMF: the two institutions have complementary missions.
 - The World Bank Group works with developing countries to reduce poverty and increase shared prosperity, while the International Monetary Fund serves to stabilize the international monetary system and acts as a monitor of the world's currencies.
 - The World Bank Group provides financing, policy advice, and technical assistance to governments, and focuses on strengthening the private sector in developing countries. The IMF keeps track of the economy globally and in member countries, lends to countries with balance of payments difficulties, and gives practical help to members.
 - Countries must first join the IMF to be eligible to join the World Bank Group.



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